

Message Text

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46

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01

OPIC-03 SAJ-01 ARA-06 PM-03 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /097 W

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R 121119Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3071

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 3295

MADRID PLEASE PASS AMBASSADOR CARLUCCI

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, PO

SUBJ: LABOR MINISTER RETURNS FROM GDR

REF: LISBON 3039 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: MINISTER OF LABOR COSTA MARTINS HAS STATED PORTUGAL WILL
HAVE CLOSER TIES WITH GDR. AT SAME TIME MINISTER IS SEEKING

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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FROM ILO. EMBASSY ENCOURAGES ILO SUPPORT.

END SUMMARY.

1. MINISTER OF LABOR COSTA MARTINS RETURNED JUNE 7 FROM TRIPS TO GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC AND TO GENEVA FOR ANNUAL ILO CONFERENCE. MINISTER STATED COOPERATION BETWEEN GDR AND PORTUGAL NOW A REALITY AND WILL BE AUGMENTED DURING MID-JUNE VISIT TO PORTUGAL OF GDR SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN COMMERCE. MINISTER SPOKE FAVORABLY OF MEETINGS WITH GDR PRIME MINISTER AND OTHER HIGH RANKING OFFICIALS, BUT MADE USUAL DISCLAIMER THAT PORTUGAL WISHES TO OPEN NEW DOORS WITHOUT CLOSING OLD RELATIONSHIPS. PRESS REPORTS THAT MINISTER INSCRIBED GUEST BOOK IN GDR FACTORY WITH COMMENT THAT "YOUR EXPERIENCES WILL ALSO SERVE THE PORTUGUESE PEOPLE AND I AM CERTAIN THEY WILL FOLLOW YOUR EXAMPLE."

2. WITH REGARD TO ANNUAL ILO CONFERENCE, MINISTER STATED THAT IT MIGHT BE NECESSARY FOR HIM TO RETURN TO GENEVA PRIOR TO END OF SESSION. RETURN NECESSARY TO COMPLETE ARRANGEMENTS FOR AN ILO COMMISSION TO COME TO PORTUGAL TO ADVISE ON THE STRUCTURE OF THE MINISTRY AND ITS SERVICES, AS WELL AS PREPARE WAY FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM ILO AND U.N. DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.

3. ACCOMPANYING COSTA MARTINS FROM GENEVA WAS CUBAN MINISTER OF LABOR OSCAR FERNANDEZ PADILLA, WHO STATED THAT HE WAS STOPPING IN LISBON "FOR A FEW HOURS OF WORK" ENROUTE TO CUBA.

4. RECOMMENDATION: MINISTER'S EXPRESSED INTEREST IN RECEIVING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE ILO IS WORTHY OF NOTE. EMBASSY HOPES THAT ILO WILL BE ABLE TO PROVIDE QUALIFIED TECHNICIANS AND SUGGESTS THAT, TO EXTENT FEASIBLE, U.S. ENCOURAGE THIS MOVE. MINISTER PURPORTEDLY HAS RECEIVED AMPLE OFFERS OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN LABOR AREA FROM COMMUNIST COUNTRIES. WHILE PORTUGAL PROBABLY NOT YET READY TO GO THAT FAR, ILO TEAM ON THE GROUND WOULD HELP PRECLUDE SUCH AN EVENTUALITY.
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